

A number of claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The cancellation of claims 2-32 and the amendments to claim 1 which are made herewith are respectfully suggested to obviate this rejection.

The presently claimed invention defines an active matrix type display device having a basic feature with first conductive layers that comprise the same material as a scanning line, and second conductive layers that have the same material as a signal line disposed below the sealing member between the first and second substrates. The sealing member may, for example, control a gap distance between the first and second substrates. These conductive layers may be called dummy electrodes. The prior art rejections show a dummy electrode below a sealing member. However, the claims are amended to obviate these rejections.

Amended claim 1 defines the first dummy electrodes that is of the same material as the scanning lines, and the second open "dummy" electrodes that is the same material as the signal lines. These are arranged in turn, so that the first dummy electrodes do not overlap the second dummy electrodes. Moreover, this is shown in the portions R1 and R2 of FIGS. 4 and 5.

The new claims 37 and 42 recite that the dummy electrode continuously extends for a length that is longer than a pitch of

a scanning or signal line. This feature is an improvement of the configuration shown in the portion R2 of FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, it has been noticed that moisture might enter into the liquid crystal panel through the gap between the dummy electrodes. However, the portion R2 in FIG. 7 shows that the dummy electrodes extend along the sealing member, and may prevent moisture from entering into the panel. Claims 37 and 42 define this feature and are thus further patentable over the cited prior art.

The new claim 47 further defines structure corresponding to the portion R3 in FIG. 4, where the scanning lines extend below the sealing member. For example, this may be used for an external configuration. In this case, the dummy electrodes are formed of the same material as the signal lines, and are disposed between the scanning lines and below the sealing member.

New claim 51 is directed to an element including an item corresponding to the portion R4 in FIG. 4. The first open "dummy electrodes" are made of the same material as the scanning lines. They are also electrically connected to the signal lines.

The previous claims stood rejected based on obviousness-type double patenting. Since these claims were changed, it is

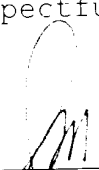
respectfully suggested that the obviousness-type double patenting has been obviated.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Scott C. Harris
Reg. No. 32,030

SCH/smr

Fish & Richardson P.C.
PTO Customer No. 20985
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 500
San Diego, CA 92122
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099

10110664.dcc



VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 2-32 have been canceled.

Claims 33-76 have been added.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A display device comprising:

a first substrate; [having:]

[a pixel portion including a plurality of thin film transistors;]

a plurality of scanning lines extending over the first substrate in a first direction;

a plurality of signal lines extending over the first substrate in a second direction;

an interlayer insulating film disposed between said scanning lines and said signal lines;

a plurality of thin film transistors disposed at locations adjacent to intersections of said scanning lines and said signal lines;

a plurality of pixel electrodes electrically connected to said plurality of thin film transistors;

a second substrate [being opposite] opposed to the first substrate;

a sealing member [for bonding the] disposed at a periphery of both said first and second substrates [and together];

[a substrate interval correction means being disposed in a sealing forming region where the sealing material formed over the first substrate,

wherein the substrate interval correction means includes at least a conductive layer being electrically isolated]

a first plurality of conductive layers interposed between said first substrate and said sealing member, said first plurality of conductive layers comprising a same material as said plurality of scanning lines;

a second plurality of conductive layers interposed between said first substrate and said sealing member, said second plurality of conductive layers comprising a same material as said plurality of signal lines; and

an insulating film disposed between said first plurality of conductive layers and said second plurality of conductive layers wherein said insulating film comprises a same material as said interlayer insulating film,

wherein said first plurality of conductive layers and said second plurality of conductive layers are arranged in turn so that said second plurality of conductive layers do not overlap said first plurality of conductive layers.